



MEDIA RELEASE

Multi-Agency Water Rescue Training

SANTA BARBARA, CA – May 20, 2013

On Tuesday, May 21st, City Firefighters, Harbor Patrol Officers, and U.S. Coast Guard personnel will participate in a joint training exercise outside the Santa Barbara Harbor in recognition of National Safe Boating Week. Anticipated activities include mock rescues from both the breakwater and boats, utilizing Harbor Patrol vessels, the City Fire Department's Water Rescue Team and (weather dependent) a Coast Guard helicopter. This multi-agency training exercise highlights the cooperation between these groups in providing a rapid response to water-related emergencies.

Safe Boating Week is a great time to reeducate your family and loved ones about how to boat safely over the summer. Common tips include wearing a life jacket (mandatory for children under 13), taking a boating course and reading the ABC's of California Boating Law (<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Abc/>). Always check the ocean weather before you leave port and file a float plan with friends or family. Finally, never boat under the influence. Some 16% percent of all boating fatalities nationwide are caused by drunken boaters.

Media personnel are requested to meet at the Harbor Masters Office by 9:15 a.m. Weather permitting, helicopter operations will begin at 9:30 a.m. A short walk down the breakwater should provide a good vantage point for viewing.



Helo Rescue Ops



SBFD Water Rescue Team

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